



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,621	01/11/2001	William M. Raveis JR.	455850.0047 (HLS-143)	2395
7590	06/28/2004		EXAMINER	
ST. ONGE STEWARD JOHNDTON & REENS LLC 986 BEDFORD STREET STAMFORD, CT 06905-5619			YOUNG, JOHN L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3622	

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/759,621	RAVEIS, WILLIAM M.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	John L Young	3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

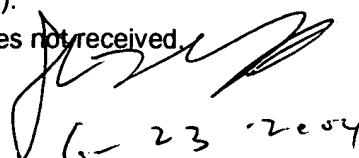
- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

JOHN LEONARD YOUNG, ESQ.
PRIMARY EXAMINER



JL - 23 - 2004

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Art Unit: 3622

NON-FINAL ACTION

DRAWINGS

1. This application has been filed with drawings that are considered informal; said drawings are acceptable for examination purposes. The review process for drawings that are included with applications on filing has been modified in view of the new requirement to publish applications at eighteen months after the filing date of applications, or any priority date claimed under 35 U.S.C. §§119, 120, 121, or 365.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3622

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mini 6,684,196 (01/27/2004) [US f/d: 08/30/1999] (herein referred to as (“Mini”)).

As per claim 1, Mini (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; FIG. 13; FIG. 14; FIG. 15; FIG. 16; FIG. 18; FIG. 26; FIG. 27; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; FIG. 4; FIG. 5; FIG. 9; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; col. 1, ll. 15-67; col. 2, ll. 1-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-67; col. 5,ll. 1-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-67; col. 19, ll. 1-67; col. 20, ll. 1-25; and whole document) shows: “A method of managing customer relationships through a real estate transaction cycle over a distributed computer network. . . .”

Mini (FIG. 5; FIG.10) shows: “receiving and storing data relating to a plurality of customers including buyers and sellers of real estate in a computerized database. . . .”

Mini (FIG. 6; FIG. 8; FIG. 16; FIG. 16A; FIG. 18; FIG. 19) shows: “active order data describing real estate related services ordered during the real estate transaction cycle. . . .”

Mini (FIG. 18) shows: “completed order data describing real estate related services completed during the real estate transaction cycle. . . .”

Art Unit: 3622

Mini (FIG. 6; FIG. 8; FIG. 16; FIG. 16A; FIG. 18; FIG. 19) shows: "active order data describing real estate related services ordered during the real estate transaction cycle. . . ."

Mini (FIG. 22; FIG. 2; FIG. 6; FIG. 8; FIG. 16; FIG. 16A; FIG. 18; FIG. 19) shows: "updating the active order data, the completed order data and the scheduling data upon the performance of a real estate related service ordered during the real estate transaction cycle. . . ."

Mini (col. 9, ll. 21-40) discloses "*a password for access to the site. . . .*"

Mini lacks an explicit recitation of "providing customers with secure access to the computerized database to facilitate monitoring of the active order data, the completed order data and the scheduling data."

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Mini (col. 9, ll. 21-40; and FIG. 23) would have been selected in accordance with "providing customers with secure access to the computerized database to facilitate monitoring of the active order data, the completed order data and the scheduling data" because selection of such features would have provided means "*by which a . . . [secure] real estate transaction may be initiated and facilitated . . . via the Internet.*" (See Mini (col. 2, ll. 30-35)).

Art Unit: 3622

As per claims 2-8, Mini shows the method of claim 1 and subsequent base claims depending from claim 1.

Mini (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; FIG. 13; FIG. 14; FIG. 15; FIG. 16; FIG. 16A; FIG. 18; FIG. 19; FIG. 22; FIG. 23; FIG. 26; FIG. 27; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; FIG. 4; FIG. 5; FIG. 6; FIG. 8; FIG. 9; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; col. 1, ll. 15-67; col. 2, ll. 1-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-67; col. 5, ll. 1-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-67; col. 19, ll. 1-67; col. 20, ll. 1-25) shows the elements and limitations of claims 2-8.

Mini lacks explicit recitation of the elements and limitations of claims 2-8. "Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and the advantages of the elements and limitations of claims 2-8 were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious to include the selection of such elements and limitations as found in claims 2-8, because selection of such features would have provided means "*by which a . . . [secure] real estate transaction may be initiated and facilitated . . . via the Internet.*" (See Mini (col. 2, ll. 30-35)).

Art Unit: 3622

Independent claim 9 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as independent claim 1.

As per claims 10-15, Mini shows the system of claim 9 and subsequent base claims depending from claim 9.

Mini (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; FIG. 13; FIG. 14; FIG. 15; FIG. 16; FIG. 16A; FIG. 18; FIG. 19; FIG. 22; FIG. 23; FIG. 26; FIG. 27; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; FIG. 4; FIG. 5; FIG. 6; FIG. 8; FIG. 9; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; col. 1, ll. 15-67; col. 2, ll. 1-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-67; col. 5, ll. 1-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-67; col. 19, ll. 1-67; col. 20, ll. 1-25) shows the elements and limitations of claims 10-15.

Mini lacks explicit recitation of the elements and limitations of claims 10-15.

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of the elements and limitations of claims 10-15 were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious to include the selection of such elements and limitations as found in claims 10-15, because selection of such features would have provided means “*by which a . . . [secure] real estate transaction may be initiated and facilitated . . . via the Internet.*” (See Mini (col. 2, ll. 30-35)).

Art Unit: 3622

Independent claim 16 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as independent claim 1.

As per claims 17-20, Mini shows the computer-readable medium of claim 16.

Mini (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; FIG. 13; FIG. 14; FIG. 15; FIG. 16; FIG. 16A; FIG. 18; FIG. 19; FIG. 22; FIG. 23; FIG. 26; FIG. 27; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; FIG. 4; FIG. 5; FIG. 6; FIG. 8; FIG. 9; FIG. 10; FIG. 11; col. 1, ll. 15-67; col. 2, ll. 1-67; col. 3, ll. 1-67; col. 4, ll. 1-67; col. 5, ll. 1-67; col. 6, ll. 1-67; col. 7, ll. 1-67; col. 8, ll. 1-67; col. 9, ll. 1-67; col. 10, ll. 1-67; col. 11, ll. 1-67; col. 12, ll. 1-67; col. 13, ll. 1-67; col. 14, ll. 1-67; col. 15, ll. 1-67; col. 16, ll. 1-67; col. 17, ll. 1-67; col. 18, ll. 1-67; col. 19, ll. 1-67; col. 20, ll. 1-25) shows the elements and limitations of claims 17-20.

Mini lacks explicit recitation of the elements and limitations of claims 17-20.

"Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and the advantages of the elements and limitations of claims 17-20 were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious to include the selection of such elements and limitations as found in claims 17-20, because selection of such features would have provided means "*by which a . . . [secure] real estate transaction may be initiated and facilitated . . . via the Internet.*" (See Mini (col. 2, ll. 30-35)).

Art Unit: 3622

CONCLUSION

3. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Any response to this action may be sent via facsimile to either:

(703)305-7687 (for formal communications EXPEDITED PROCEDURE) or

(703) 305-7687 (for formal communications marked AFTER-FINAL) or

(703) 746-7240 (for informal communications marked PROPOSED or DRAFT).

Hand delivered responses may be brought to:

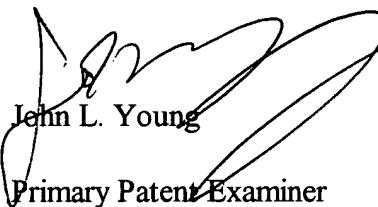
Seventh Floor Receptionist
Crystal Park V
2451 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John L. Young who may be reached via telephone at (703) 305-3801. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, may be reached at (703) 305-8469.

Art Unit: 3622

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


John L. Young
Primary Patent Examiner

JOHN LEONARD YOUNG, ESQ.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

June 23, 2004